

Original Notes of M. de la Palun on Father Morrone's Cochinchinese Vocabulary.—*From P. S. Du Ponceau, Esq.*

Dissertation on the Nature and Character of the Chinese System of Writing. Being Vol. II. of the Historical Transactions of the Society. By P. S. Du Ponceau. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the Author.*

FOR THE CABINET.

A Collection of South American copper coins.—*From Mr. Condj Raguet.*

Professor Henry, of Princeton, made a verbal communication on the lateral discharge of electricity, while passing along a wire as in the Leyden experiment, or communicated directly to an insulated wire, or to a wire connected with the earth; and detailed various experiments, proving that free electricity is not, under any circumstances, conducted silently to the earth.

Dr. Bache announced the death of Dr. John Eberle, a member of the Society, who died at Lexington, Ky., on the 2d of February, aged 54.

Stated Meeting, March 2.

Present, twenty-three members.

MR. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Atlas of Europe, executed at the Geographical Establishment of Brussels in 1833. Containing 165 Maps. By Vandemaden. Brussels, 1833.—*From Mr. H. S. Tanner, and twenty-one other members of the Society.*

Autographs of the Members of the Pennsylvania Convention for amending the Constitution. 1837-8.—*From J. K. Kane, Esq.*

The Principles of Political Economy. By Henry Vethake. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the Author.*

Magazine of Natural History. Edited by Edward Charlesworth.

Vol. I. Nos. 10, 11, & 12. London, 1837.—*From the Editor.*
 American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Edited by Isaac Hays,
 M. D. No. 42, for February. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the
 Editor.*

Etats Unis d'Amerique. Par M. Roux de Rochelle. Paris, 1837.
From the Author.

The Historical Committee announced that they had completed the publication of Mr. Du Ponceau's Dissertation on the Nature and Character of the Chinese System of Writing, forming volume second of the Historical Transactions of the Society.

Mr. Walker read a paper, entitled "Determination of the Longitude of several Stations near the Southern Boundary of Michigan; calculated from Transits of the Moon and of moon culminating Stars, observed in 1835 by Andrew Talcott, late Captain of United States Engineers."

The longitude of places in the United States, north of the Ohio, had hitherto depended on the observations of Ellicott and De Ferrer, made at points on the banks of the Ohio river, and on meridian lines drawn from this river, several hundred miles northward, by the deputy surveyors. From Mr. Walker's computations, it appears that *Turtle Island, Lake Erie*, has been placed only 1.7 geographical miles too far east on Tanner's Map. Its true place is $41^{\circ} 45' 9''$ N. latitude; and 5 hours, 33 min. 34.3 sec. W. longitude from Greenwich. Also, *South Bend Lake, Michigan*, has been placed 3.9 miles too far east; its true place being N. $41^{\circ} 37' 6''$; W. 5 hours, 49 min. 15.3 sec. These observations of Capt. Talcott will prove highly useful to geographers, by furnishing standard points of reference in the northernmost part of the United States.

Mr. Vaughan announced the death of Benjamin Dearborn, of Boston, a member of the Society, who died on the 22d of February, 1838, aged 83.